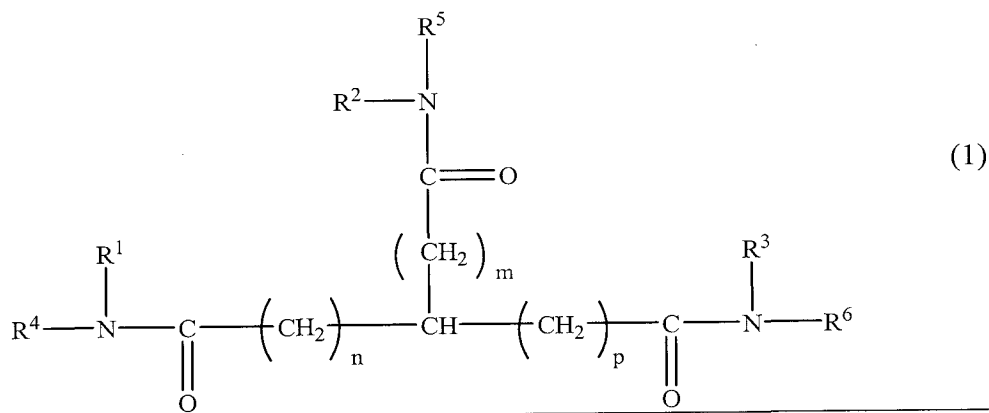


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled).

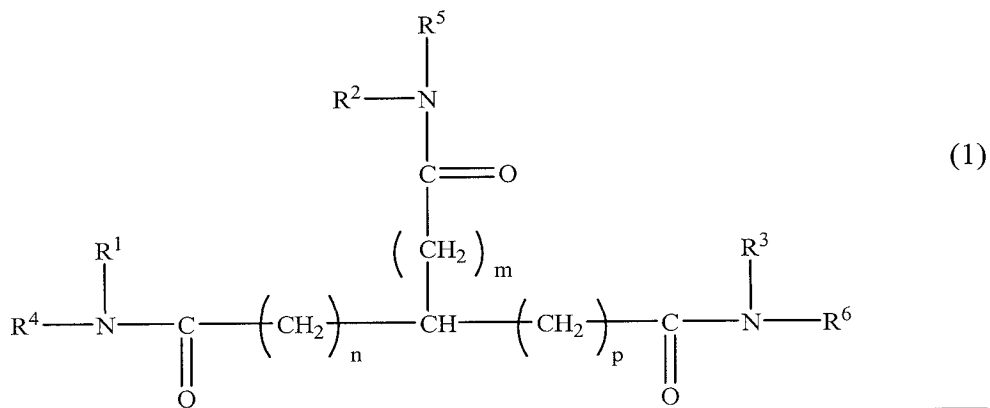
Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An amide compound represented by the following formula 1:



wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are each independently a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having a carbon number of from 1 to 3 with the proviso that at least one of R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> is a hydrogen atom; R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are each independently a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched hydrocarbon group having a total carbon number of from 6 to 24 which optionally has at least one group selected from the group consisting of an ether group, amide group, ester group, amino group and hydroxyl group; and The amide compound according to claim 1, wherein in formula 1 m is 2, n is 0 and p is 3.

Claim 4 (Cancelled).

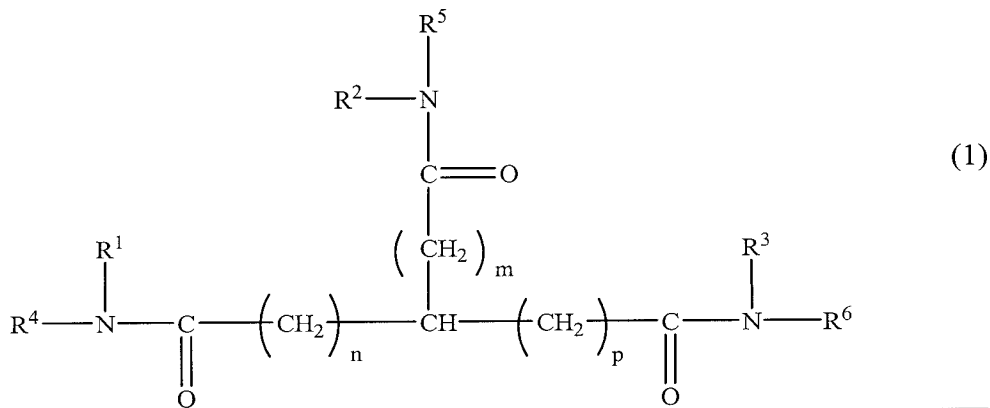
Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A gelling agent comprising ~~the~~ an amide compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4 represented by the following formula 1:



wherein  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are each independently a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having a carbon number of from 1 to 3 with the proviso that at least one of  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  is a hydrogen atom;  $\text{R}^4$ ,  $\text{R}^5$  and  $\text{R}^6$  are each independently a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched hydrocarbon group having a total carbon number of from 6 to 24 which optionally has at least one group selected from the group consisting of an ether group, amide group, ester group, amino group and hydroxyl group; wherein  $m$  is 2,  $n$  is 0, and  $p$  is 3, or  $m$  is 1,  $n$  is 0, and  $p$  is 2.

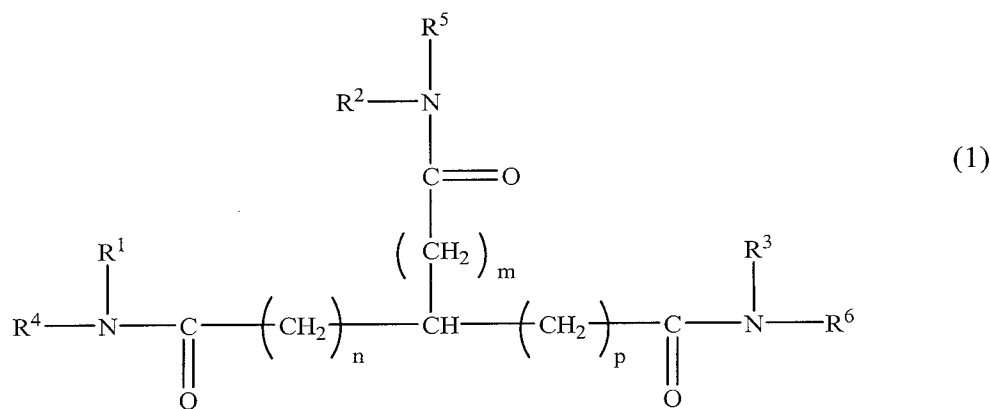
Claim 6 (Original): A gel composition comprising an oily base and the gelling agent as defined in claim 5.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An external composition comprising the an amide compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4 represented by the following formula 1:



wherein  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are each independently a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having a carbon number of from 1 to 3 with the proviso that at least one of  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  is a hydrogen atom;  $\text{R}^4$ ,  $\text{R}^5$  and  $\text{R}^6$  are each independently a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched hydrocarbon group having a total carbon number of from 6 to 24 which optionally has at least one group selected from the group consisting of an ether group, amide group, ester group, amino group and hydroxyl group; wherein  $m$  is 2,  $n$  is 0, and  $p$  is 3, or  $m$  is 1,  $n$  is 0, and  $p$  is 2.

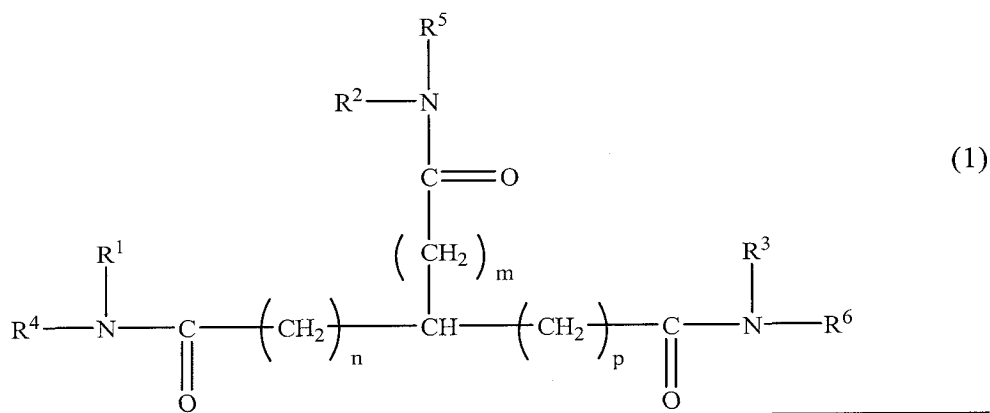
Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A cosmetic ~~preparation~~ composition comprising the ~~an~~ amide compound as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ represented by the following formula 1:



wherein  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are each independently a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having a

carbon number of from 1 to 3 with the proviso that at least one of R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> is a hydrogen atom; R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are each independently a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched hydrocarbon group having a total carbon number of from 6 to 24 which optionally has at least one group selected from the group consisting of an ether group, amide group, ester group, amino group and hydroxyl group; wherein m is 2, n is 0, and p is 3, or m is 1, n is 0, and p is 2.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A fragrance composition comprising a fragrance and the an amide compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4 represented by the following formula 1:



wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are each independently a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having a carbon number of from 1 to 3 with the proviso that at least one of R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> is a hydrogen atom; R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are each independently a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched hydrocarbon group having a total carbon number of from 6 to 24 which optionally has at least one group selected from the group consisting of an ether group, amide group, ester group, amino group and hydroxyl group; wherein m is 2, n is 0, and p is 3, or m is 1, n is 0, and p is 2.

Claims 10-11 (Canceled).